

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims;

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a first main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole, a first outer sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided outside the first main bead, and a first inner sub-bead section smaller than the first main bead and provided inside the first main bead, said first outer and inner sub-bead sections projecting outwardly in a direction opposite to the first main bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and having a second main bead projecting outwardly therefrom around the hole, a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided outside the second main bead, ~~said second outer sub-bead section abutting at least partly against the first outer sub-bead section in a radial direction of the hole for sealing,~~ and a second inner sub-bead section smaller than the second main bead and provided inside the second main bead, ~~said second inner sub-bead section abutting at least partly against the first inner sub-bead section in the radial direction for sealing~~ second outer and inner sub-bead sections projecting outwardly in a direction opposite to the second main bead, a distance between the second outer and inner sub-bead sections being greater than that between the first outer and inner sub-bead sections so that when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections face the first outer and inner sub-bead sections and entirely sandwich the first outer and inner

sub-bead sections therebetween to substantially abut against each other at side peripheries thereof.

2-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A metal gasket according to claim 3 1, wherein at least one of the first and second outer sub-bead sections is formed intermittently in a circumferential direction.

7-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said ~~second outer sub-bead section is at least partly located outside the first outer sub-bead section and said second inner sub-bead section is at least partly located inside the first inner sub-bead section~~ second main bead has a size less than that of the first main bead so that when the gasket is compressed, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections restrict lateral movements of the first outer and inner sub-bead sections.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A metal gasket having a hole to be sealed, comprising:

a first metal base plate having a first ~~main~~ half bead around the hole, and a first outer sub-bead section projecting in a direction opposite to the first half bead, said first outer sub-bead section being smaller than the first ~~main~~ half bead and provided outside the first ~~main~~ half bead, and

a second metal base plate laminated with the first metal base plate and including a second ~~main~~ half bead formed around the hole to project in a direction opposite to the first ~~main~~ half bead and

having a size less than that of the first half bead, and a second outer sub-bead section smaller than the second ~~main~~ half bead and provided outside the second ~~main~~ half bead, said second outer sub-bead section projecting in a direction opposite to the second half bead so that when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer sub-bead section faces an outer surface of the first outer sub-bead section and is entirely ~~being~~ located at least partly outside the first outer sub-bead section and abutting to abut against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section.

17-18. (cancelled)

19. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second outer and inner sub-bead sections has a trapezoidal shape.

20. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 1, wherein said first and second metal base plates are different in thickness.

21. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein said first and second outer sub-bead sections and said first and second half beads are formed only around the hole for sealing the same.

22. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 21, wherein each of said first and second outer sub-bead sections has a trapezoidal shape.

23. (new) A metal gasket according to claim 16, wherein said first and second metal base plates are different in thickness.